

Woodland Forge.

Dec. 22. 1854.

Robert Bulman Esq.

Dear Sir:

I received your note last night, with the volume of Mr. Leving, which accompanied it, and read the latter through with great pleasure. It is a fair specimen of the modern classical drama, after the old model, a little too directly imitative of "Ions". You, my dear Sir, know too well the reputation of the English Drama, and the great stature of Shakespeare, not to know that the classical drama can have no living use. We have survived it. Say this to your young friend that he may waste no more time upon a dead thing. Let him seek his models among the living. Still, as a debut, this drama proves that he has stuff in him. But he must work. Mere verse dialogue, however good, is <sup>in a drama,</sup> ~~rigid~~ <sup>unlike</sup> the characters are put in actual flesh & blood action. I will take note of this performance somewhere, & send you the result. Meanwhile, thank Mr. Leving for me for his book. Pray present me, with affectionate respect to Mr. B. and believe me very truly yours &c

W. Gilmore Simms